The purpose of the MPH internship (usually a research internship for epidemiology students) is to (1) apply the skills learned across the MPH curriculum and within epidemiology specifically, and (2) advance the students understanding of epidemiology and public health in a real-world application and setting. Typically, MPH students should seek an internship that will extend their post-graduate competitive profile in future education (e.g., PhD, MD), or in various government, private, and agency employment markets. Based on students’ goals, the internship setting may be in a public health agency, academic setting, or another related organization or agency. Within those settings, students may focus on a variety of specific discipline or content areas of research, such as infectious or chronic disease, genetics, or cancer.

This document is intended as an overall guide to our program expectations for these internships/ special projects for epidemiology. The intent is for epidemiology concentration students to experience and accomplish activities that are considered competencies for epidemiology at the national level. No one student will perform all activities on this list. However, minimum expectations are given for groups of these. Consult with your advisor/Chair and with the Associate Director for Student and Academic Affairs about these requirements when selecting your project and completing your goals/plan.

A. Epidemiology Planning Activities
   1. Literature reviews
   2. Study design
   3. Grant writing
   4. Designing, testing, and adapting data collection methods
   5. Group meetings, formal planning work — Delphi methods, interviewing experts, etc.
   6. IRB preparation and activities

B. Conducting Research and Epidemiologic Investigations
   1. Data collection (interviews, records, laboratory, etc.)
   2. Working with data entry systems
   3. Laboratory or specimen handling and analysis

C. Data Management, Analysis, and Interpretation
   1. Designing data collection or data entry systems
   2. Database tasks such as data cleaning, programming, variable classification and coding, designing and updating coding manuals, codebooks, etc.
   3. Statistical data analysis
   4. Creating tables, graphs, charts of analyses
5. Writing data methods or data interpretation methods

D. Communication
1. Routine memos, forms, files, calls, and electronic communications with team and others for the internship
2. Written reports and findings
3. Graphics, slides, or the aids in communicating results
4. Oral presentations
5. Disseminating results, e.g., community feedback, newsletters, reports to subjects, etc.

E. Teams and Systems
1. Working with a lab, clinic, research group
2. Integrating activities at more than one level, e.g., investigator and department, local and global, community and individual, laboratory and population, etc.
3. Establishing or working in a partnership

F. Community, Population-Level Thinking
1. Activities that relate to group levels (e.g., communities, nation, special subgroups)